AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1- Please substitute the following paragraph in the description section of the specification on page 14:

[0033] Figure 1 is a network diagram illustrating various nodes of an example Fibre Channel fabric-based interconnect network that are inter-communicating using virtual identifiers. In this example embodiment, multiple interconnect fabric modules ("IFMs") 110a with high-speed switching capabilities are used as intermediate routing devices to form an interconnect fabric 110, and multiple nodes 105, a network manager 115 and a Multi-Protocol Edge Switch ("MPEX") 120 are connected to the fabric. Each of the nodes has at least one VI NIC that uses virtual identifiers when communicating and receiving data. The MPEX is used to connect the Fibre Channel or InfiniBand network to an external network 125, such as an Ethernet-based network, and similarly includes at least one VI NIC. Data is transmitted through the interconnect fabric using frames such as those defined by the Fibre Channel or InfiniBand standards.

2- Please substitute the following paragraph in the description section of the specification starting from page 15 and continuing to page 16:

[0035] Figure 3 is a flow diagram illustrating the discovery processing of the network manager in one embodiment. The network manager first retrieves an indication of which ports of the interconnect fabric modules are connected to other devices. The network manager then sends a query message through each of the indicated ports to the connected-to port. When the connected-to port receives the query message, it responds with an identification of its interconnect fabric module and its port number. In this way, the network manager can discover the topology of the

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interconnect fabric. In blocks 301-303, the network manager retrieves the indications of which ports of the interconnect fabric modules are connected to other ports. In block 301, the network manager selects the next interconnect fabric module that has not yet been selected. In decision block 302, if all the interconnect fabric modules have already been selected, then the network manager continues at block 304, else the network manager continues at block 303. In block 303, the network manager retrieves an indication of which ports of the selected interconnect fabric module are connected to other ports. The network manager may send the message using either in-band our out-of-band communications. The network manager then loops to block 301 to select the next interconnect fabric module. In blocks 304-310, the network manager determines the identity of each of the connected-to ports. In block 304, the network manager selects the next interconnect fabric module. In decision block ~~304~~305, if all the interconnect fabric modules have already been selected, then the network manager completes its discovery process, else the network manager continues at block 306. In blocks 306-310, the network manager loops sending a query message through each port of the selected interconnect fabric module that is connected to another port. In block 306, the network manager selects the next port of the selected interconnect fabric module that is connected to another port. In decision block 307, if all such ports are already selected, then the network manager loops to block 304 to select the next interconnect fabric module, else the network manager continues at block 308. In block 308, the network manager sends a query message through the selected port of the selected interconnect fabric module. In block 309, the network manager receives the identification of the connected-to port of the selected port of the selected interconnect fabric module. The identification may include an indication of the interconnect fabric module and the port number of the connected-to port. In block 310, the network manager stores a mapping between the selected port of the selected interconnect fabric module and the connected-to port of the connected-to interconnect fabric module. These mappings define the topology of the network.

The network manager then loops to block 306 to select the next port of the selected interconnect fabric module that is connected to another device.

3-　　Please substitute the following paragraph in the description section of the specification starting from page 16 and continuing to page 17:

[0036]　　The processing of the discovery of the network manager as described above assumes that the network manager initially is aware of all interconnect fabric modules of the interconnect fabric. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the network manager may become of aware of additional interconnect fabric modules during the discovery process. For example, if the network manager is centralized, then it may initially send a query message through its port that is connected to the interconnect fabric. The receiving port responds with the identity and of the interconnect fabric module and its port number. The network manager can then requested that the identified the interconnect fabric module to provide an indication of which of its ports is/are connected to other ports. The network manager can then send a query message through each of the indicated ports to the connected-to ports. The connected-to ports then respond with the identification of the connected-to interconnect fabric module and connected-to port. This process can be repeated transitively by the network manager to identify all interconnect fabric modules that comprise the interconnect fabric.